

Eslambolchi 2002-0496

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. *(previously presented)* A method of operating comprising the steps of:  
receiving information identifying a higher-level alarm associated with a SONET facility, wherein the information defines a first time period;  
receiving information identifying a lower-level alarm associated with a SONET facility, wherein the information defines a second time period;  
determining minutes of outage in response to receiving the information identifying the higher-level alarm associated with the SONET facility and the information identifying the lower-level alarm associated with the SONET facility by subtracting the overlap between the first time period and the second time period.

2. - 4. *cancelled*

5. *(previously presented)* A method of determining minutes of outage comprising the steps of:  
acquiring facility hierarchy information, the facility hierarchy information depicting a facility hierarchy, the facility hierarchy including higher levels and lower levels;  
determining outage for each of the levels in the facility hierarchy in response to acquiring the facility hierarchy information; and  
determining minutes of outage in response to determining the outage for each of the levels in the facility hierarchy, including correlating the outage for each of the levels by subtracting overlap between outage of the higher levels and outage of the lower levels.

6. *(currently amended)* A method of determining minutes of outage ~~operating~~ as set forth in claim 5, wherein the facility hierarchy information details a SONET facility hierarchy.

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7. *(currently amended)* A method of determining minutes of outage ~~operating~~ as set forth in claim 5, wherein the higher and lower levels include an OC48 level.

8. *(currently amended)* A method of determining minutes of outage ~~operating~~ as set forth in claim 5, wherein the higher and lower levels include an OC1 level.

9. - 17. *cancelled*